



U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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News Advisory

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Sensenbrenner Statement on Senate's 96-to-3 Defeat of the PATRIOT Act Filibuster Effort

WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.) today issued the following statement after the Senate defeated a filibuster effort 96-to-3 on the PATRIOT Act reauthorization conference report:

“The Senate’s near-unanimous defeat yesterday of a filibuster effort embodies a victory for security of this nation and is critical to winning the war on terror. This legislation permanently tears down ‘the wall’ that had hindered our ability to ‘connect the dots’ prior to 9/11. With this legislation, the FBI and the CIA will continue to be able to share information and work together in detecting, disrupting, and dismantling terrorist cells as they have been since 9/11. In addition, this legislation provides more than 30 new civil liberty safeguards to ensure these authorities are not utilized improperly in the future.

“It is regrettable though, that even with all of these needed provisions, one member of the Senate – from my own state, no less – continues to employ parliamentary obstructionist tactics that do nothing except delay the enactment of the improvements and renewal of this anti-terrorism law. It’s revealing that every liberal stalwart of the Senate has now rejected this unwavering obsession with blocking from a final vote the most valuable anti-terrorism legislation enacted since the devastating terrorist attacks of September 11th.

“I look forward to Senate and House action in two weeks that will allow the PATRIOT Act renewal to be sent to President Bush for his signature.”

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